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# CONFERENCE *connection*

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SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

March 1, 2022

## A Lenten Meditation



by Rev. Kim Wood, Conference Minister

## News from the Conference Office

### Save the Date: Service of Installation

The Board of Directors of the Southeast Conference, United Church of Christ declares

**Saturday, April 2, 2022**  
as the date for the Service of Installation for  
Rev. Heather Fosburgh as Associate Conference Minister and Rev. Kim  
Wood as Conference Minister.

Time: 3:00 PM Eastern /2:00 PM Central

Locations: Kirkwood United Church of Christ, Atlanta, GA  
and  
Spirit of the Cross Church, Huntsville, AL  
as well as

Satellite Locations throughout the SECUCC (TBD)  
(all with limited capacity based on best practices for the Covid-19  
Pandemic)

The service will also be live-streamed for people wishing to celebrate  
worship from their homes.

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## Generosity Corner

*by Min. Carrole Moss*

Greetings all, February has been a busy month for us as we celebrated and recognize Black History Month. This month has always been a month of revelations and celebration. There is still so much untold history.

I was blessed to be invited to Midway Congregational UCC, Midway, GA as the youth made presentations to celebrate the achievements and accomplishments of Black pioneers who contributed so much to our society. The Dorchester Museum is still so relevant to our history and made such an important mark on our history. This museum is housed on the Midway campus. Please check it out!! You will not be disappointed!! The youth represented in an amazing way! Their oratory, singing/musical and dance abilities were amazing! It was an amazing visit.



Special thanks to all those persons who continue to believe in the development of our future leaders.

There is still much to be done and we remain focused on this work.

Look us continue to focus on our youth and all the way's that your OCWM contributions are used to support all of these projects. We are so grateful for ALL the ways that you continue to support this Southeast Conference

United Church of Christ. You are so appreciated!!

Again, please invite me to your churches.. I'm here to serve!

As we are returning to in person services, let's have those conversations and make our conference stronger than ever. Remember, WE ARE A UNITED AND UNITING BODY OF BELEIVERS, and GIVE ALL GLORY TO GOD!!

"TO WHOM MUCH IS GIVEN, MUCH IS REQUIRED !!"

THANKS AGAIN FOR ALL THAT YOU DO!

Peace and blessings. As we continue to journey...TOGETHER,  
Min. Carrole

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## Reminder about Annual Yearbook Reporting

It's not too late!!! Yearbook reporting closes March 2nd. Please submit your report today! If you cannot submit it online, please return the paper version of the form to the Conference Office.

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## Annual Information Review for Authorized Ministers

It is that time of year again, the Annual Information Review for Authorized Ministers! If you are an Authorized Minister, licensed, commissioned, or ordained, please take a few minutes and fill out the Information review. This helps us keep our database up to date and helps the Commission on Ministry and the Conference know how to support you better in your ministry. We have a couple of different ways you can submit your information, including an [online form](#) and a [fillable PDF](#) you can print and mail in or email back to the conference. The conference will also be sending out hard copies next week if you prefer that version. If you have any questions or problems with the form, please email [hfosburgh@secucc.org](mailto:hfosburgh@secucc.org).

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## Clergy Zoom Connections for February

- **An Hour of Conversations and Prayer**

Tuesday, March 8, 15, 22, 29 - 11:00 a.m. Eastern (10:00 a.m. Central); Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/479440102>

- **Live Harp Meditations for Ministers**

Thursday, March 17 - 12:00 p.m. Eastern (11:00 Central)  
20 minutes of meditation with Celtic harp. Silent prayer and reflection following if desired, facilitated by Rev. Jean Norton. (For questions or

to sign up for individual Therapeutic Harp Sessions, contact Jean at [HeartSongJean@gmail.com](mailto:HeartSongJean@gmail.com).)

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/96976838422>

- **Especially for Specialized Ministers**

Tuesday, March 22 - 9:30 a.m. Eastern (8:30 a.m. Central)

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/354744689>



## **Prayer List**

We are continuing the process of praying for authorized ministers, congregations, and ministry groups throughout 2022. We encourage you to include these prayer requests in your local church newsletter, share them with your prayer circle, and include them in your own prayers.

### Week of March 6

- Rehoboth Fellowship; Atlanta, Georgia
- UCC National Staff
- Valerie Coe Lowder
- Kriss (Mi Young) Choi
- Timothy Garvin-Leighton
- James Janecek

### Week of March 13

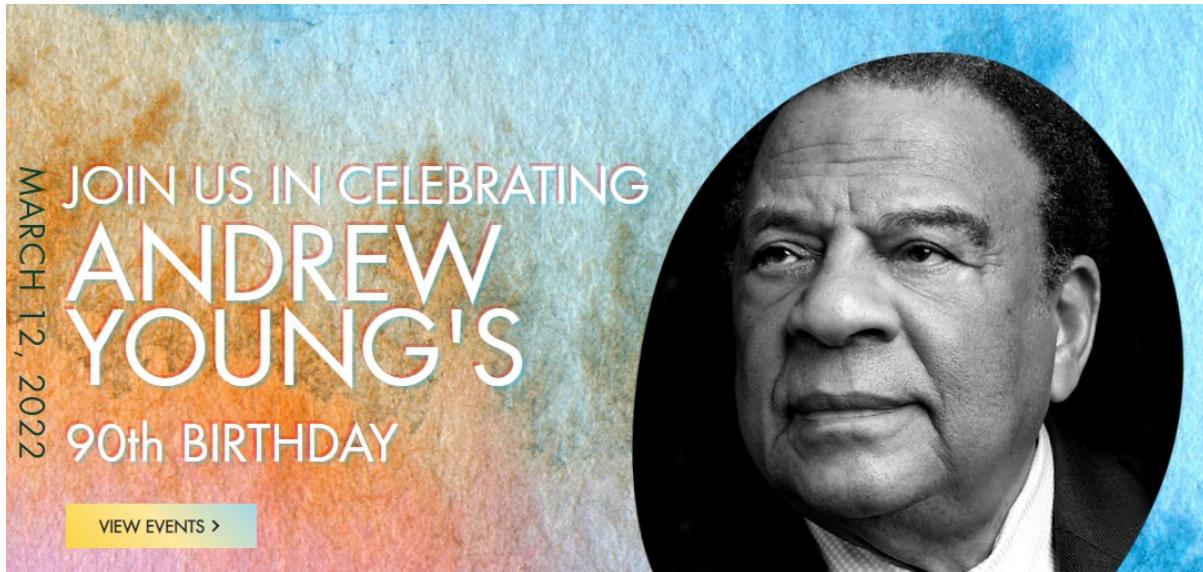
- First Congregational UCC; Atlanta, Georgia
- Common Global Ministries and all mission personnel
- Thomas Baird
- Robert Foreman
- Cheryl Slusser

- Gavin Warren

## Churches in Transition

First Congregational, Montgomery AL; First Congregational, Savannah GA; Trinity Congregational, Athens AL; Rush Memorial, Atlanta GA; Holy Trinity Community Church, Nashville TN; First United Church, Belvidere TN; Pleasant Hill Community Church, Pleasant Hill TN; Peace Congregational, Clemson SC; Deer Lodge Congregational Church, Deer Lodge TN

## News from our Local Congregations



### For 90th birthday, Civil Rights icon asks for focus on peace, reconciliation

As he turns 90, the Rev. Andrew Young has peace on his mind. And reconciliation. For his birthday, he's inviting the world to focus on both.

The Civil Rights leader and United Church of Christ minister will preach about it Wednesday, March 9, from Atlanta's [First Congregational Church](#). His keynote sermon will be part of a service billed as a "90-Minute Global Prayer for Peace." People can tune in online at noon ET at [a website marking his milestone birthday](#). The service will also air live on Atlanta's WSB-TV.

The First Congregational service will kick off four days of activities marking Young's 90th birthday — and a career that included serving as a pastor,

Atlanta's mayor, a member of Congress, and the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. He was [a trusted advisor and confidante](#) of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. during the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s.

Young hopes the celebration will encourage people to "spend 90 minutes in reconciliation with someone with whom they've had a difficult relationship," according to the website. [Learn more on our website.](#)



## Hodge Memorial Daycare Center Parent Room Named After Mrs. Wilhelmenia Atkinson-Dean

Mrs. Wilhelmenia Atkinson-Dean spent most of her career as a Savannah educator and a strong community advocate. But one of many contributions is standing out today: She is being recognized for serving 50 years as a volunteer and a leader of leaders at the Hodge Memorial Daycare Center. Her extensive involvement in civic activities includes serving as a member of the Board of Managers of Hodge Memorial Daycare Center, where she has been a favorite fundraiser. For decades, she has carried rolls of raffle tickets to raise funds for the center. She recruits professionals to serve on the board of managers, many of whom were her students during her 34 enjoyable years as a teacher and counselor from the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System.

Mrs. Dean has been an active member of First Congregational UCC in Savannah for 70 plus years and has served in every capacity at this church. She recently celebrated 96 years of life and has no intentions of slowing down. We send our prayers and blessings to Mrs. Dean as she continues to serve. TO GOD BE THE GLORY!!



## Rev. Dr. Samuel Featured in Popular Podcast

Pastor of **Victory for the World Church**, Dr. Kenneth L. Samuel, was featured in the podcast 'The More We Know Community Show' with Dr. Sylvia during Black History Month. Dr. Samuel shares profound and prophetic insights into the state of 'The Black Church.' [LISTEN](#)

## News from the Wider Church



## Are You Willing To Respond?

This free, new and rapidly growing network is providing congregations with practical tools, training and relationships, including online resources and connection to your Conference Disaster Coordinator and to denominational, ecumenical and other disaster response resources. **It's simple to access and has an easy three-step process to register.**

**Willing to Respond** is a United Church of Christ collaboration with Disciples of Christ Week of Compassion, and Houston Responds.

"Willing to Respond is not a one-size-fits-all program," emphasized Lesli Remaly, United Church of Christ Minister for Disaster Response and Recovery. "The way you serve is up to your congregation, as God is leading you.

"In fact," Remaly said, "Your congregation may already be serving disaster survivors by assembling CWS Kits and Emergency Clean-Up Buckets, contributing to UCC appeals, deploying work teams to disaster rebuilding sites or helping people in your community clean up after a flood or storm.

"Willing to Respond will help your congregation review its experience, available resources and community context; discern your growing edges, and get ready to respond when disaster strikes," she said. "The Willing to Respond network helps your congregation get connected to collaborate." Join Us Today!



## One Great Hour of Sharing Offering for 2022

The theme for the 2022 One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering is "***Love Remains***," based on 1 Corinthians 13:13 *And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.* These words were written to a church in turmoil to remind them what love looks like in community.

*What does love look like in our UCC Community?* Through your collective generosity, the United Church of Christ has worked with both domestic and international partners to provide food, water, medicines, education, disaster recovery resources and opportunities for sustainable development, bringing hope to places of despair. Your gifts to OGHS allow us to put love into action to make a difference in the lives of individuals and communities in crisis around the world.

**Sunday, March 27, 2022**, the fourth Sunday of Lent, is the recommended date for the offering. Resources to help you promote the offering will be mailed to your churches beginning the week of February 21, 2022. And for your newsletters and worship planning purposes, resources are already available for download [on the UCC website](#). You may also order additional copies of these materials from [UCC Resources](#).

Thank you for your enthusiasm in promoting the One Great Hour of Sharing offering in your churches and for your generous gifts to ensure that *Love Remains*.

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## Grant Monies Available for Historic Places

The National Fund for Sacred Places is a program of Partners for Sacred Places in collaboration with the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Through financial and technical support, they support healthy congregations in historic sacred places and advance the common good. The Fund provides matching grants of \$50,000 to \$250,000 to congregations undertaking significant capital projects at historic houses of worship, along with wraparound services including training, technical assistance, and planning support. They are accepting letters of intent (LOIs) until **March 7th at 11:59 HST**. The LOI is the first step in a two-step application process. To access the LOI form, please visit them at [fundforsacredplaces.org](http://fundforsacredplaces.org).

## Trainings and Conferences



### Healthy Boundary Training for 2022

Healthy Boundary Training will be offered through Zoom again this year. The following courses will be offered in partnership with the Disciples of Christ Georgia Region.

- March 25-26 - **Healthy Boundaries 101: Fundamentals** [REGISTER](#)
- Sept. 16-17 - **Healthy Boundaries 201: Beyond Basics and Into the Internet** (Pre-req Healthy Boundaries 101) [REGISTER](#)

An additional course of Healthy Boundaries 301 is in final development and will be offered in May.

These trainings are offered Fridays from 1:45pm - 5:15pm, and Saturdays from 8:45am-12:15 pm. You must attend both sessions in order for the training to count toward Authorization Requirements for Ordained,

Licensed, and Commissioned Ministers. The Fee is \$75.

The Commission on Ministry will also be offering a Healthy Boundaries Course for Retired ministers later in the year.

A reminder that in order to maintain ministerial standing in the Southeast Conference of the UCC, an Authorized Minister must complete an approved Healthy Boundaries Course once every four years. Both Healthy Boundaries 101 and 201 meet this requirement as does Healthy Boundaries for Retired Clergy unless a minister holds Exempt Status. If you have questions about these trainings, when you need training again, or Exempt Status, please email [BATraining@secucc.org](mailto:BATraining@secucc.org).



## Courageous Faith: The Future of Spirituality

How is our understanding of faith being reshaped, perhaps accelerated, by the pandemic? Do faith communities have a future and what kind of courage will that require? What kind of rituals will shape the future of spirituality? What are the big theological questions of our time? How do younger generations seek spirituality? Is there a future of courageous spirituality? If so, what does that look like?

Convergence, in partnership with Homebrewed Christianity, will be speaking directly to faith leaders around the world who are leaning into this question with deep thinking and creative innovations. These are BIG questions, but it's time to rethink everything.

Join them for this five-day summit and explore your own imagination as we create the future of spirituality together. [REGISTER](#)

## Conference Calendar

March 8 @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm EST

[Clergy Conversations via Zoom](#)

March 15 @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm EDT

[Clergy Conversations via Zoom](#)

March 17 @ 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm EDT

[Live Harp Meditations for Ministers](#)

March 22 @ 9:30 am - 11:00 am EDT

[Zoom Conversation for Specialized Ministers](#)

March 22 @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm EDT

[Clergy Conversations via Zoom](#)

March 29 @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm EDT

[Clergy Conversations via Zoom](#)

View the **full calendar** of events online: <https://www.secucc.org/events/>

## Contact Us

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Assoc. Conf. Minister: **Rev. Heather Fosburgh**; [hfosburgh@secucc.org](mailto:hfosburgh@secucc.org)

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